



Fighting the MAGTF

LtGen Knutson



A MEF is the most powerful warfighting formation in the world...

...if fought correctly

Purpose



MSTP

- Understand uniqueness of the MAGTF
- Understand how a MAGTF fights
- Understand how the Staff helps the Commander fight the MAGTF
- Understand the Power of the MAGTF

References



MSTP

MCDP 1

Warfighting



MCDP 5

Planning



MCDP 1-3

Tactics



U.S. Marine Corps

PCN 16 2 0000 02 00

MCWP 5-1

MARINE CORPS PLANNING PROCESS



U.S. Marine Corps

MCDP 1-0

Marine Corps Operations



U.S. Marine Corps

Characteristics of MAGTF Ops



MSTP

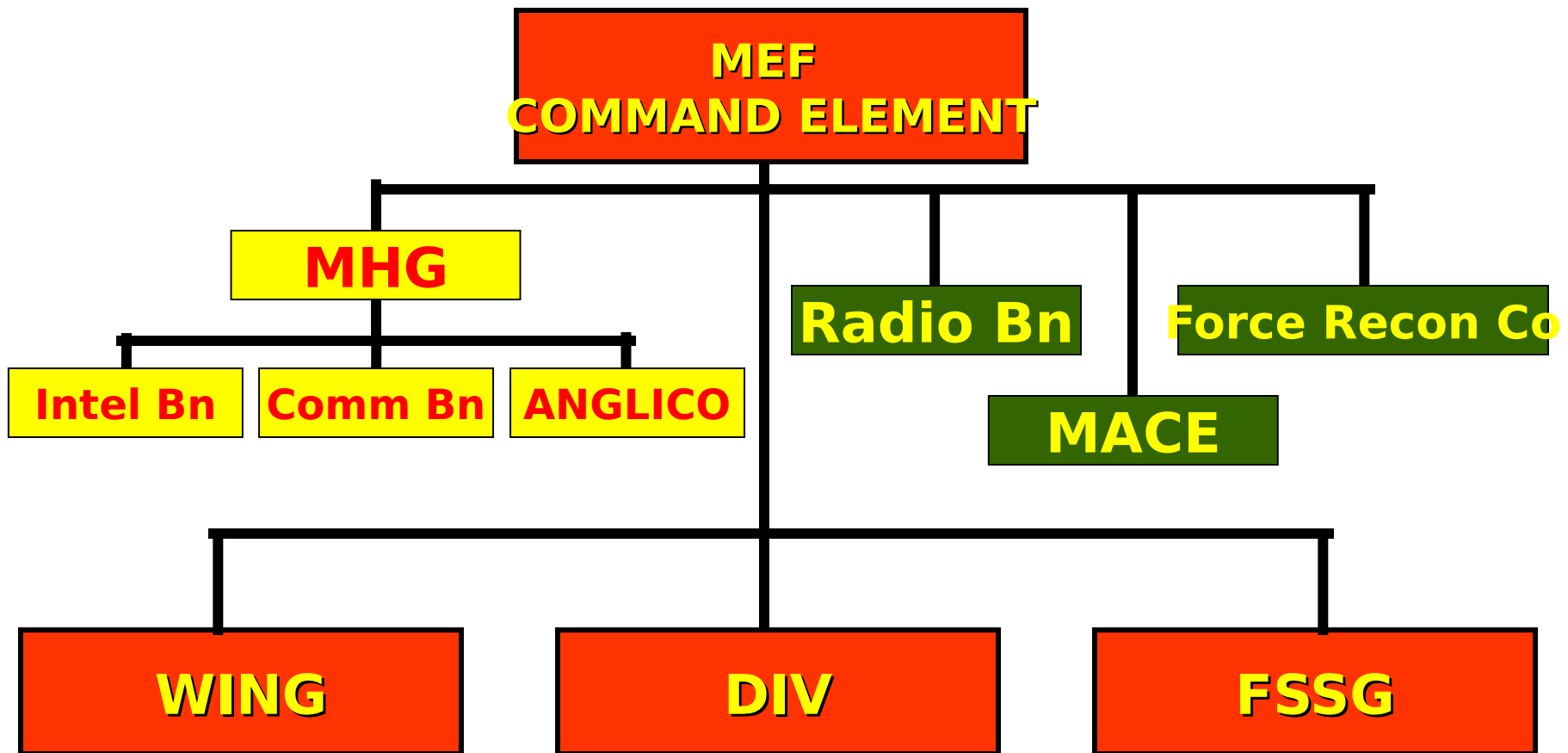
- Joint / Combined
- Depth
- Tempo
- Info-enabled
- Complex
- Staffs
- Single Battle



MAGTF Organization

MSTP

- A MAGTF has unique capabilities that allow it to focus further out in time and space than its MSCs





How do MAGTFs Fight?

MSTP

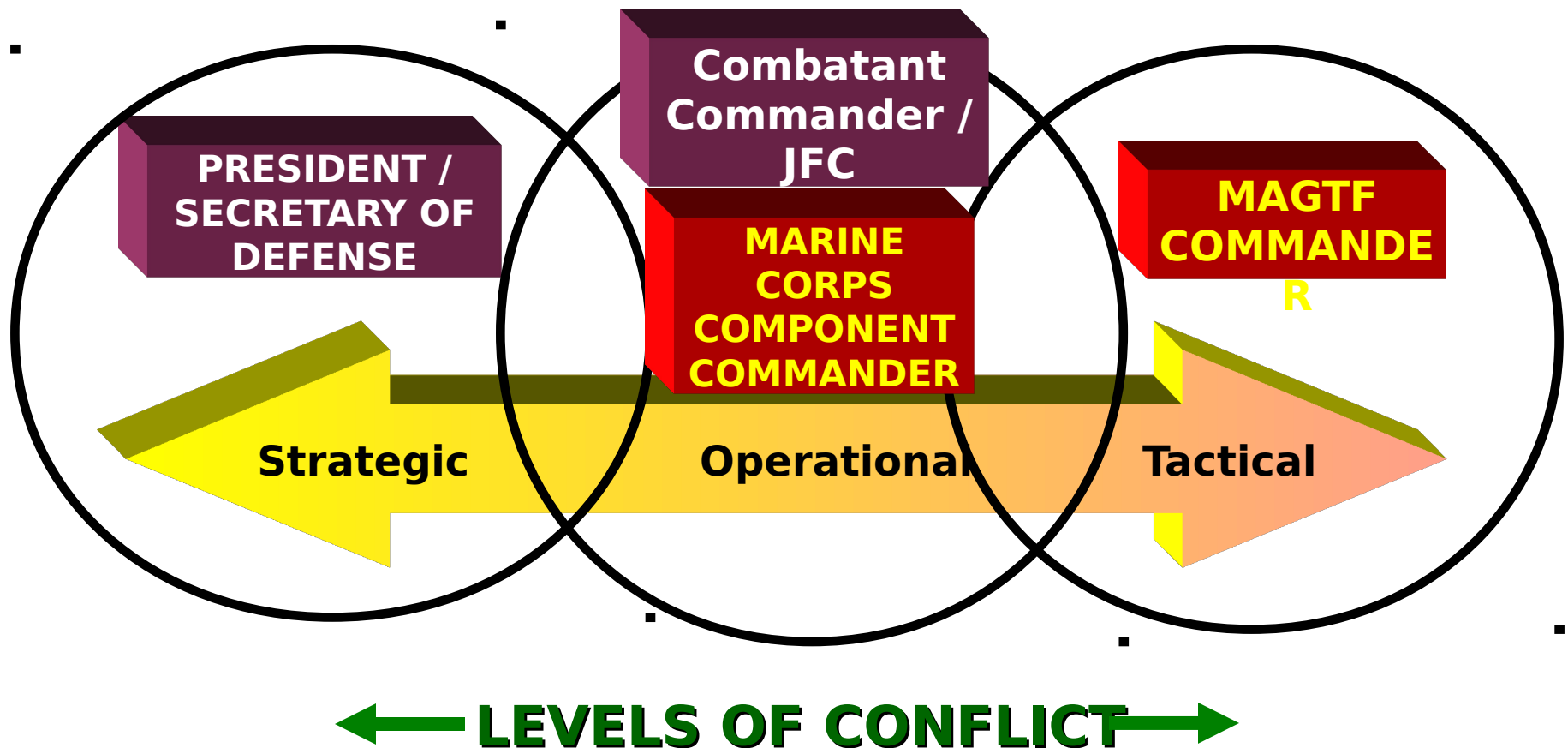
- A MAGTF fights the JFC's campaign
- A MAGTF fights in depth within an expanded battlespace
- A MAGTF provides a unique warfighting organization to the Combatant Commanders
 - Expeditionary Operations
 - Combined Arms Operations
 - Forcible entry from the Sea
- A MAGTF fights at the tactical level to fulfill the JFC's operational objectives

A MEF is a Corps-level unit

MEFs in Joint Operations



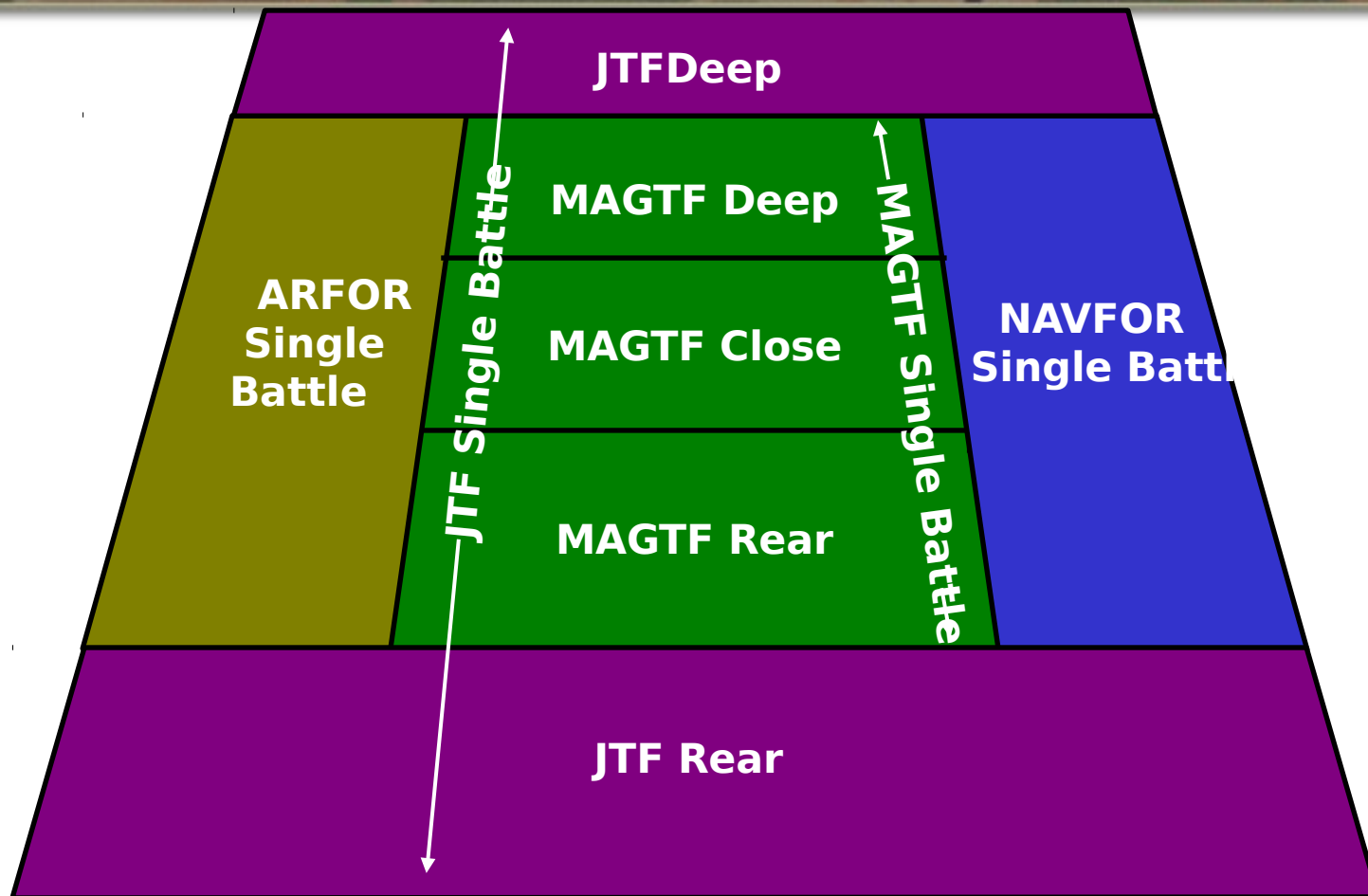
MSTP



A MAGTF Fights at the Tactical Level to fulfill the JFC's Operation



Single Battle



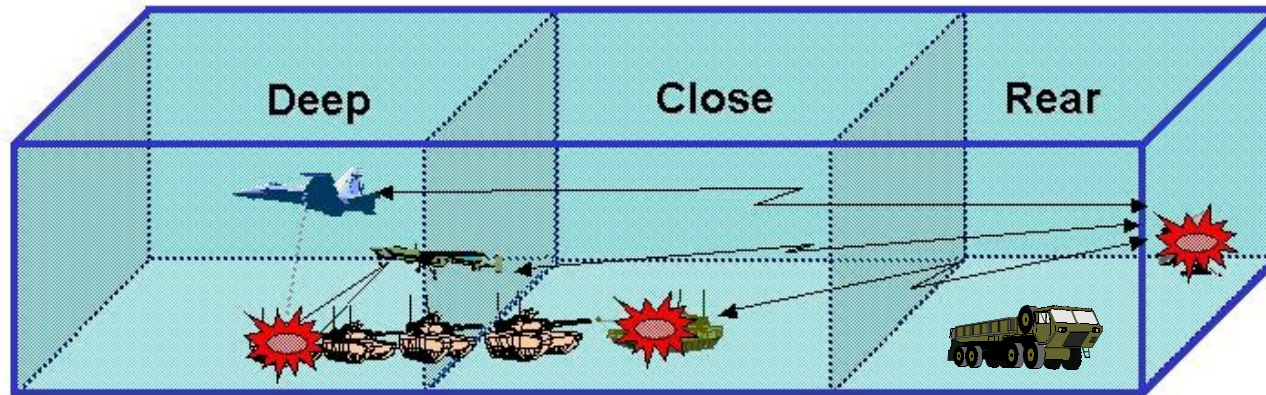
The MAGTF Single Battle forms a portion of the JTF Single Battle



The Single Battle

MSTP

Single Battle



**Action *anywhere* is related
To action *everywhere***

The Single Battle is the Power of the MAGTF:

- Promotes Unity of Effort – Commander's Intent
- Centralized planning controls and coordinates efforts of all available forces
- Decentralized execution generates tempo

First step to fight correctly: use MCPP!



MSTP

A unit must be engaged in accordance with a definite plan. It must not be permitted to drift aimlessly into battle.

Infantry in Battle

“Poor execution can render the most brilliant concept null and void, but the most magnificent execution can rarely offset the dead weight of a flawed concept.”

General W. W.

Depuy



Purpose of Planning

MSTP

Planning is the art of envisioning a desired end state and determining effective ways of achieving that goal

MCWP 5-1

Whether done at strategic, operational, or tactical level the key functions of planning are to:

- Direct and coordinate actions
- Develop a shared situational awareness
- Generate common expectations about how actions will evolve and how they will effect the desired outcome
- Develops confidence in taking the initiative

The measure of a good plan is not whether it is executed as intended, but whether it provides the basis for action...Can we act faster and more effectively than the enemy?

MCDP 5



Operational Design

MSTP

Visualize

Describe

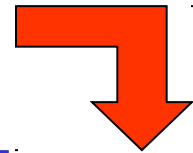
Direct

**CBAE
&
Guidance**



Battlefield Framework

**Deep, Close, Rear
(Single Battle)
Main Effort
Reserve
Security**



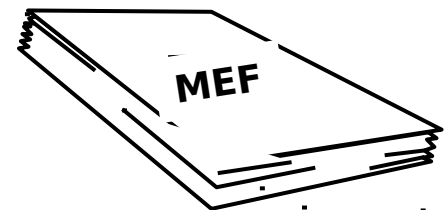
**Warfighting Functions
Integrated Planning**

OPORD

**METT-T
Decisive/Shaping
Sustainment**



Battle Staff and OPT



Conceptual

Functional

Detailed

**The Planning
Hierarchy**



Execution

Commander's Concerns



MSTP

METT-T

- What is the enemy capable of doing?
- What is the enemy's purpose?
- How do I coordinate the actions of my subordinates toward achieving a decision?
- Do I have the necessary forces and resources?
- How can I do it without culminating?
- How do I recognize success or failure?
- What have I forgotten?
- What do I think is so that isn't so?
- What don't I know that I don't know?

Thinking Conceptually



MSTP

- Deep / Close / Rear
- Intent - Common View
- Simultaneous Fight - Actions Interrelated
- Decisive Fight
- Shaping / Sustaining - Battle Handoff
- Blending Capabilities / Adjusting for Limitations
- Synchronizing
- Anticipating Surprises



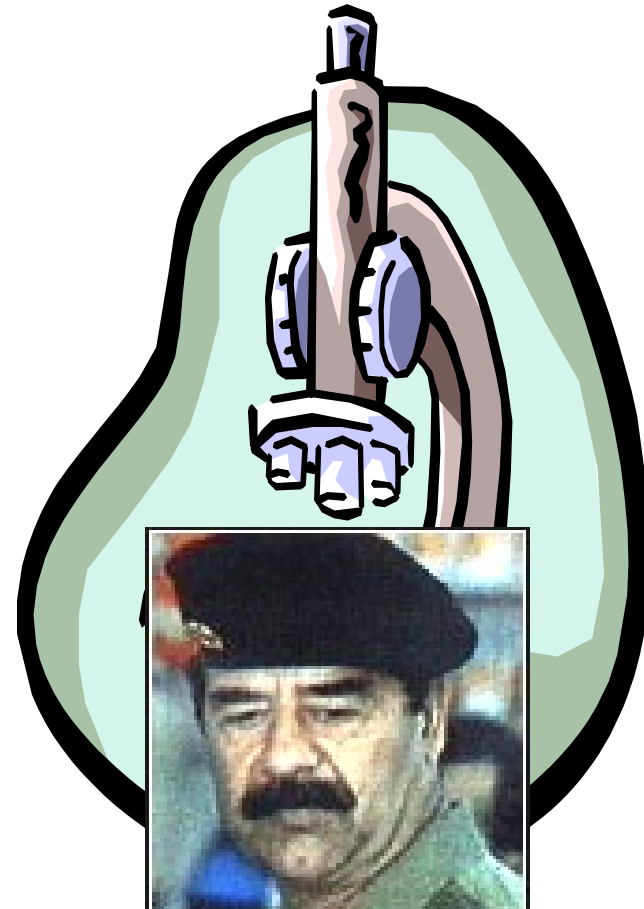
- Where is the decisive fight?
- What kind of enemy do I want to face?
- How do I shape the enemy?
- Will it be a symmetric or asymmetric fight?
- How do I get my entire force into the fight?
- How will I conduct a battle handoff?
- When / where should I give battle?

See the Enemy



MSTP

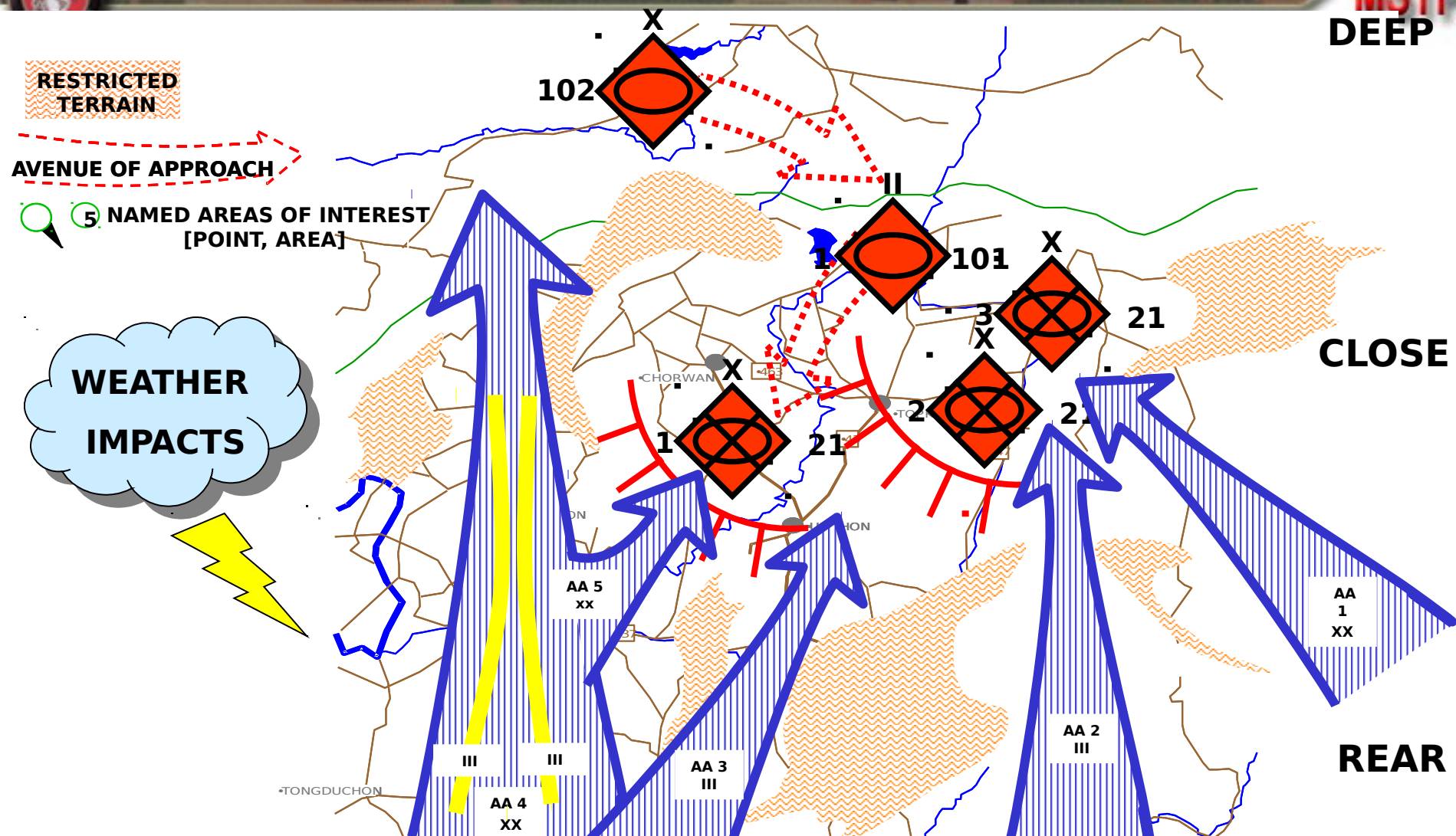
- COGs
- Culture
- Motivation
- Capability
- Intent
- History



See the Battlespace



MSTP
DEEP



“Maneuvers that are possible and dispositions that are essential are indelibly written on the ground.”

See Yourself



MSTP

- COG
- Sustainment
- Higher, adjacent (including coalition partners/Allies) and supporting commands' limitations
- Others (?)

Focusing Combat Power



MSTP

"The arrangement of military actions in time, space and purpose to produce maximum relative combat power at a decisive place and time."
JP 1-02

Time
Space
Resources

Combat Power



Decisive
Action

Endstate



Purpose

SYNCHRONIZATION

Generating Combat Power



MSTP

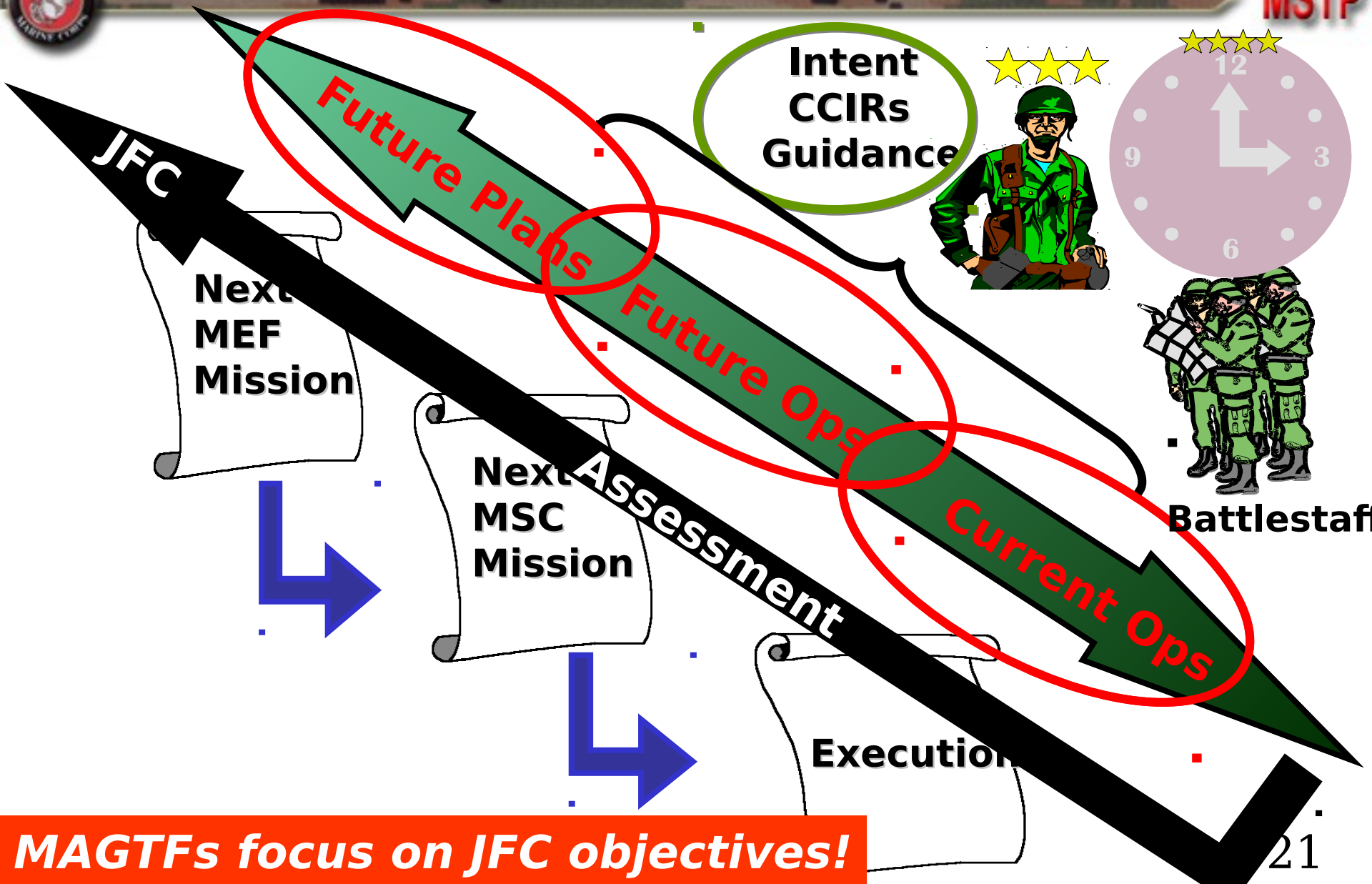
Warfighting Functions Synchronize the Force

JFC	MANEUVER LOGISTICS	FIR S	IN EL	FORCE PROTECTION	COMMAND & CONTROL
COMP	MANEUVER	FIR S	IN EL	FORCE PROTECTION	COMMAND & CONTROL LOG
MAGT	MANEUVER	FIR S	IN EL	FORCE PROTECTION	COMMAND & CONTROL
MSCs	MANEUVER	FIR S	IN EL	FORCE PROTECTION	COMMAND & CONTROL LOG

MAGTF Planning and Execution



MSTP



MAGTFs focus on JFC objectives!



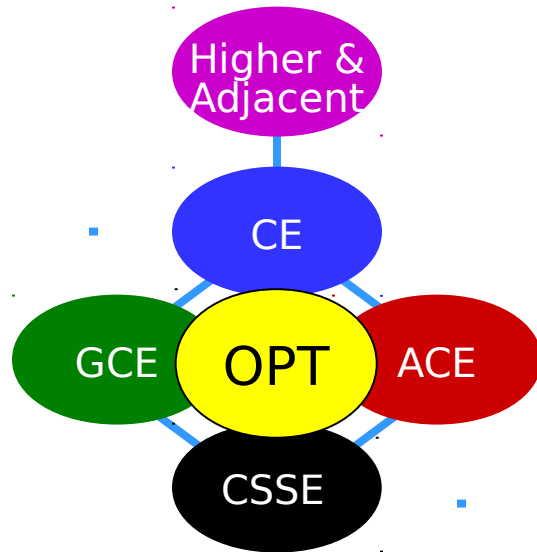
Integrated Planning

MSTP

INTEGRATED
STAFFS



INTEGRATED
WARFIGHTING
FUNCTIONS



- Command and Control
- Intelligence
- Fires
- Maneuver
- Logistics
- Force Protection
- Information Operations

Top-Down Guidance -- *"Planning is a commander driven process, not a staff driven process."*

Gen Zinni



Topic / Questions

MSTP

- Intent
- How to use air
- Air as a maneuver element
- Counter-fire fight
- Fire & maneuver
- ATO & GCE COA
- Collection plans & MEF COA
- Barrier plan
- IPB
- Main Effort(s)?
- Reserve
- MEF battlespace
- Staff size
- Operational reach
- Risk
- Most Likely vs. Most Dangerous COAs
- Concept of shaping

Summary

- The MEF is a powerful SOB!
- A MAGTF is a unique warfighting organization and can fight across the spectrum of conflict
- A MAGTF fights:
 - A single battle
 - In depth within an expanded battlespace
 - At the tactical level but with an operational focus
- The MAGTF staff is organized and focused to support the commander's decision making throughout the entire battle

